

## Turn Away My Eyes By Kent Heaton

There are many things to look at in the world that are beyond description in beauty. "The heavens declare the glory of God; and the firmament shows His handiwork" (Psalms 19:1). A baby's smile will make the heart fill with love. The expression of love in an older couple is a wonderful testimony to the nature of devotion. The list is endless of those things that will inspire the eye with beauty. The wise poet of Psalm 119 made an observation about what we should not look at. "Turn away my eyes from looking at worthless things, and revive me in Your way" (Psalms 119:37).

Sadly, there are many "worthless things" that we look at. These things are vain and foolish desires that corrupt the heart and lead us astray from the holiness of God. Our possessions can become what we focus on more than God. Covetousness is the problem of looking at our "stuff" as more important than serving the Lord. Achan admitted the reason he took the forbidden things was that he coveted after them (Joshua 7:21). As a result he lost his life along with the life of his "sons, his daughters, his oxen, his donkeys, his sheep, his tent, and all that he had, and they brought them to the Valley of Achor ... So all Israel stoned him with stones; and they burned them with fire after they had stoned them with stones" (Joshua 7:24). He should have turned his eyes away (Prov. 23:5).

King David one evening "arose from his bed and walked on the roof of the king's house. And from the roof he saw a woman bathing, and the woman was very beautiful to behold" (2Sam. 11:2). Instead of turning his eyes away he inquired of the woman, brought her to his house and committed adultery (2Sam. 11:3-4). The result was a baby born which then died as punishment for the sin of David and Bathsheba. Further judgment was brought upon the house of David because he did not turn his eyes away (2Sam. 12).

The Lord warns against lusting with the eyes. Job declares that he had "made a covenant with my eyes; why then should I look upon a young woman (Job 31:1)? Jesus admonished in the mountain sermon, "whoever looks at a woman to lust for her has already committed adultery with her in his heart" (Matt. 5:28). In our world filled with immodesty, pornography (internet especially) and no restrictions on television we must follow the Psalmist in turning our eyes away from worthless things.

How do we turn our eyes away? In our text of Psalm 119:37 it says "Revive me in Your way." Only by letting our lives be found in God and walking with God will our eyes be turned away from evil. "Let your eyes look straight ahead, and your eyelids look right before you. Ponder the path of your feet, and let all your ways be established. Do not turn to the right or the left; Remove your foot from evil" (Prov. 4:25-27). Albert Barnes writes, "A man should be thankful in this world that he has eyelids; and as he can close his eyes, so he should often do it."

The prophet Isaiah exhorts the people of God to shut their eyes from evil so that "Your eyes will see the King in His beauty" (Isa. 33:15-17). We are what we look at and allow to fill our hearts with (Matt. 15:17-20). Jesus said, "The lamp of the body is the eye. If therefore your eye is good, your whole body will be full of light. But if your eye is bad, your whole body will be full of darkness. If therefore the light that is in you is darkness, how great is that darkness" (Matt. 6:22-23). Watch what you see!

## Fit in Heaven

"My brethren, count it all joy when you fall into various trials, knowing that the testing of your faith produces patience. But let patience have its perfect work, that you may be perfect and complete, lacking nothing" (James 1:2-4).

During the depression a good man lost his job, exhausted his savings, and forfeited his home. His grief was multiplied by the sudden death of his precious wife. The only thing he had left was his faith and it was weakening. One day he was combing the neighborhood looking for work. He stopped to watch some men who were doing some stone work on a church building. One of the men was skillfully chiseling a triangular piece of rock. Not seeing a spot where it would fit, he asked "Where are you going to put that?" The man pointed toward the top of the building and said, "See that little opening up there near the spire? That's where it goes. I'm shaping it down here so it will fit in up there." Tears filled this good man's eyes as he walked away and thought of how the words "Shaping it down here so it will fit in up there" applied to his life and eternity.

The blows of hammer and chisel hurt, but hold on to your faith. Keep praying. Keep believing. The Master has to do some shaping of us down here so we'll fit in up there.

## Life Needs Action As Well As Prayers

A little girl told her father that her brothers had set traps to catch birds. He asked her what she did about it. She replied, "I prayed that the traps might not catch the birds." "Anything else?" her father asked. "Yes," she said, "I prayed that God would keep the birds out of the traps." "And what else?" said father. "Then I went and kicked the traps all to pieces." That little girl was bright enough to understand that life needed action as well as prayers.

## An Atheist Swallows the Whale

Once an atheist asked a Christian if she believed the Bible is true. "Yes," said the lady. "Then," said the atheist, "tell me how a whale swallowed Jonah, as a whale's stomach is no bigger than a man's head?" "I don't know," said the lady, "but when I get to heaven, I will ask him." "What if Jonah is not there?" asked the atheist. "Then you will have to ask him," said the lady.

## A Moments Wisdom

You can't be too careful what you tell a child because you never know what he'll take hold of and spend the rest of his life remembering you by.

A torn jacket is soon mended; but hard words bruise the heart of a child.

One important way for us to help our children grow up is for us to grow up first.

Children are natural mimics — they act like their parents in spite of every attempt to teach them good manners.

Our children are the only earthly possessions that we should want to take with us to heaven.

He that offers God second place in his life, offers Him no place at all.